

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 181115Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8308

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1205

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BU (SHPETER, HENRICH NATHAN)

SUBJECT: SHPETER CASE

REF: A) STATE 121742; B) SOFIA 952; C) SOFIA 958

1. FROM RELIABLE SOURCE, WHO IS IN CONTACT WITH SHPETER'S  
LAWYER, WE ARE INFORMED THAT HIS APPEAL WILL BE HEARD  
AUG 5.

2. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THE CASE IN RECENT CONVER-  
SATION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE DASKALOVA WHO DISCLAIMED  
COMPETENCE (WHICH IS CORRECT SINCE THE MATTER IS IN HANDS  
OF MILITARY COURT) BUT SAID POINTEDLY THAT BULGARIANS HAVE  
HARD EVIDENCE WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY CONCLUSIVE.

3. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH VLADIMIR VELCHEV, WHO AS  
FORMER CHARGE IN WASHINGTON STILL TAKES AN INTEREST IN  
MATTERS THAT COULD AFFECT US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS, HE VOICED  
OPINION THAT IT EXCEEDINGLY UNLIKELY SENTENCE WILL  
BE EXECUTED, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF APPROACH OF THE BULGARIAN  
30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

4. AUSTRIAN AMB ALSO TELS US THAT DURING RECENT VISIT  
OF PRIME MINISTER TODOROV TO STOCKHOLM, PALME  
RAISED THE SHPETER CASE WITH HIM. AS DEPT IS AWARE  
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(REF C) KREISKY HAD EARLIER SENT PLEA TO ZHIVKOV AS

HUMANITARIAN MATTER, AND KREISKY AND PALME ARE CLOSE FRIENDS.

5. IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH PERSONS INQUIRING ABOUT SHPETER CASE IN CONTEXT WITH HIS BEING A JEW, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR DEPT TO REMARK THAT BULGARIA'S RECORD WITH RESPECT TO ANTISEMITISM IS MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF OTHER BALKAN COUNTRIES; THAT THERE WERE NO PERSECUTIONS DURING PERIOD WHEN COUNTRY WAS ALLIED WITH NAZI GERMANY; THIS COMMUNIST REGIME HAS IN PAST FOLLOWED LIBERAL POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO EMIGRATION; AND THAT WE KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE THAT SHPETER WAS TREATED HARSHLY BECUASE HE IS A JEW.

6. THERE IS OF COURSE THE POSSIBILITY THAT BULGARS THREW THE BOOK AT SHPETER AS PART OF THEIR POLICY OF CURRYING FAVOR WITH ARABS; BUT THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHPETER MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION LIKE ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE.  
HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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